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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 20 July 1951

SUBJECT 207th Motorized Rifle
Division Exercise

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1 SUPPLEMENT TO
2 REPORT NO.

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1. On 17 April 1951 the garrison in Stendal began a major tactical exercise. After the alert had been sounded troops of the 207th Motorized Rifle Division moved out of their garrisons at about 4:00 AM by road in the direction of Gardelegen, in normal division formations. Shortly before reaching Gardelegen, the column turned south and the troops occupied positions in the vicinity of Zienau, Ipse, and Ziepel, southeast and southwest of Gardelegen. They then made a simulated attack in the direction of Letzlingen, on the northern limits of Letzling Heath. All troops returned to the Stendal garrisons on 19 and 20 April. *

2. Heavy 122 mm artillery were used by the division in the exercise. A total of 13 pieces of that caliber were counted in tactical positions. The artillery brigade at Stendal-Borstel was alerted during the exercise and guns of the same caliber, also 13 pieces, were moved out and emplaced. All Soviet troops partaking in the exercise wore steel helmets, an innovation in the Soviet Zone of Germany.

25X1A * Comment: Apparently the exercise was an "attack from garrison" similar to the one made by the 8th Guards Army early in April.

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